

Message Text

SECRET

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 L-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-01

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R 211242Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2211

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 0459

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, UR, LA

SUBJECT: CALL ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR VDOVINE

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR VDOVINE THIS MORNING, HE ASKED ME WHETHER I BELIEVED THE PRESENT SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM WAS HAVING ANY REPERCUSSIONS ON THE LAO CEASEFIRE. I TOLD VDOVINE THAT I BELIEVED THAT THE BLATANCY OF THE PHUOC LONG CEASE-FIRE VIOLATION AND INTENSIFICATION OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN CAMBODIA MIGHT WELL CREATE A MOOD AMONG THE PATHET LAO WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THEIR TAKING ACTIONS WHICH WERE DESTABILIZING. I REVIEWED WITH VDOVINE THE RECENT PROBLEMS IN THAKHEK AND BAN HOU EI SAI EMPHASIZING THE CONCERNS OF THE "VIENTIANE SIDE" THAT ANY PARTICIPATION BY THE PATHET LAO IN QUELLING DEMONSTRATIONS IN THOSE AREAS WOULD RESULT IN THE INTRODUCTION OF PATHET LAO SOLDIERS INTO THE VIENTIANE-SIDE ZONE. THE VIENTIANE SIDE CONSIDERED IT VERY UNLIKELY THAT ONCE PL FORCES WERE INTRODUCED INTO AN AREA THEY WOULD EVER LEAVE AND THIS HAD PROVED TO BE THE CASE IN BAN HOU EI SAI.

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2. AMBASSADOR VDOVINE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN REGARDING

THE ATTITUDE THE PATHET LAO MIGHT TAKE OVER THE ARREST OF THE KEY DEMONSTRATORS IN THAKHEK AND THE BAN ON DEMONSTRATIONS IN VIENTIANE. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PATHET LAO WOULD BEHAVE IN A CONCILIATORY MANNER AS DEMONSTRATIONS AND DISTURBANCES DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL CONCORD. VDOVINE SAID THAT IT APPEARED TO HIM WHILE PROGRESS CONTINUED TO BE MADE IN LAOS AND THE SITUATION HERE WAS FAR BETTER THAN IN THE OTHER INDOCHINA STATES, THE TONE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES APPEARED TO BE MORE ACRIMONIOUS THAN IT HAD SOME WEEKS AGO.

3. TURNING TO AID MATTERS, VDOVINE CONFIRMED THAT NO AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH REGARD TO COMMODITIES WHICH SOVIETS WOULD GRANT TO LAOS. HE STATED THAT AS HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED, THE SOVIET UNION HAD AGREED TO UNDERTAKE SEVERAL MINOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE PATHET LAO ZONE. VDOVINE THEN EXPRESSED HIS CHAGRIN THAT THE RECENT RUSSIAN DELEGATION LED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER ALEKSEY SHIBAYEV HAD ONLY BEEN ABLE TO SPEND 24 HOURS IN VIENTIANE. ACCORDING TO HIM, BAD WEATHER IN THE NORTH HAD BROUGHT ABOUT DELAYS IN THEIR ITINERARY. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT VODVINE WISHED ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOVIETS REGRETTED THE APPEARANCE OF A LACK OF EVENHANDEDNESS IN THE SHIBAYEV TOUR.

4. IN THE COURSE OF AN EARLIER TALK, DEFMIN SISOUK, INFORMED ME THAT PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA HAD BEEN APPALLED TO LEARN THAT ECONOMIC MINISTER SOTH PHETRASY HAD THE BAD TASTE DURING HIS RECENT STAY IN MOSCOW TO ASK THE RUSSIANS FOR 10,000 LITERS OF VODKA FOR "COCKTAIL PARTIES".
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

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